THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government have advised M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited on 3rd July, 2001 not to supply indigenously produced kerosene to any party for any purpose other than for distribution under the Public Distribution System, as it would be violative of the provisions of Kerosene (Restriction on use and Fixation of Ceiling) Order 1993.

Self-Employment schemes of oil companies

2558. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of up-to-date progress of Prime Minister's self- employment schemes of oil companies; and

(b) the number of beneficiaries of this scheme in the North-East States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Self Employment Scheme was introduced in March, 1999 for award of SKO dealerships in the country. Thereafter, in November, 2000, after careful consideration, the Scheme was discontinued by the Government. There are no beneficiaries under the Scheme as it was dropped before any dealership could be allotted.

Rationalisation of duties on petroleum products

2559. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has asked for rationalisation of duties on crude oil and petroleum products to contain the impact of rising International crude oil prices on the oil pool account;

(b) whether request has been made for reduction in customs duty on crude oil to five per cent and petroleum products to 15 per cent; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Ministry of Finance to minimise the impact of rising crude oil prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.